

# "Making the DIFFerence"

## DEER INDUSTRY FOCUS FARMS PROJECT

Issue 17  
Jan 2010

South Canterbury / North Otago – WHITEROCK STATION

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Next Field Day:

**WHITEROCK STATION**

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010 12.30PM**

See over page for details

#### January Summary:

	Actual	Av.	Last Year	Actual	Last Mont	Last Year		
MONTHLY RAINFALL	133	72	12	PASTURE COVER	1600	1600	1517	
RAINFALL TO DATE	133	72	12	Pasture Growth Paddocks	26	32	6	
				Pasture Growth Hill	10	6	3	
Jan-10	STOCK NUMBERS & FEED			MINIMUM FEED		STOCK COMMENTS	STOCK WEIGHTS	
No.	kgDM/hd	TOTAL	kgDM/ha	cm/ha	Weight kgLW		LWG	
Br Hinds to Wap Stag	550	3.5	1925	1200	3.5	Set Stocked on Hill		
Br Hinds to Red Stag	310	3.5	1085	1200	3.5	Set Stocked on Hill		
R2 Hinds to Spikers	200	3.5	700	1200	3.5	Set Stocked on Hill		
Total IC Hinds	1060							
Red Weaner Hinds	230	2.5	575	1200	3.5	On grass rotation - replacement hinds		
Red Weaner Stags	54	2.5	135	1200	3.5	On grass rotation - 91% venison killed to date		
Wap X Wnr Stags						All Sold		
Wap X Wnr Hinds						All Sold		
R3 East Stags (AI)	11	4	44	1200	3.5	On grass rotation		
Sire Stags	40	4	160	1200	3.5	In Paddocks		
MA & R3 Heifers	252	12	3024	1500	5	Calved at 97%. Bulls out 4th Dec.		
R2 Heifers	58	12	696	1500	5	Calved at 98%. Bulls at 4th Dec		
R1 Heifers	72	10	720	1200	3.5	On River flats		
R1 Steers	17	10	170	1000	2.5	27 sold Dec, 61 sold Jan = 17 left total (3 are bulls)		
Sire Bulls	6	10	60	1000	2.5	In Pdks		
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>9294</b>					
<b>FEED DEMAND (Actual kgDM/ha/day)</b>			<b>20.3</b>	<b>Pdks</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>Hill</b>		
<b>FORECAST PASTURE GROWTH Feb</b>			<b>5.0</b>	<b>Pdks</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>Hill</b>		

- The New Year is starting well with good rainfall; great pasture covers and stock doing really well.
- The Kale paddocks have been very disappointing – very poor strikes – a combination of dry conditions post drilling (but wet pre-drilling) and heavy pest challenges. Rape has been sown into these paddocks and has struck well.
- Despite expected Kale yields to be back our overall feed position is looking excellent with 580 balage, very good covers on under stocked hill (more comment later) and paddocks freeing up with sale stock hitting targets early and being sold.



- With Whiterock's recent hill development, hind numbers back on expectation, impact of hind vs sheep on hill and a favorable season the hill is really bolting. A recent think tank suggests we can definitely lift hind numbers to a minimum of 1300head (from 1050hd) while holding cow numbers and still finishing the bulk of weaner deer and cattle.
- Deer fencing one of the sunny gorge blocks made wintering hinds significantly easier in 2009. The Whiterock "team" has made a decision to continue fencing the gorge block – 122ha in total including some additional paddocks. The economics of this move look competitive due to two sides of the block already fenced. We will work through these figures at our next field day. If you also account for the advantages of wintering hinds on the sunny vs cold hill there are real savings in winter feed.
- The replacement hinds have been drenched with Oxfen oral + Dectomax and given multi-min injection prior to the spikers being put in on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan at ratio of 1:10. This mob achieved an average growth rate of 144gms/day from 14<sup>th</sup> of May to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. If you assume they only achieved 50 gms/day over two months in mid-winter the balance of growth rate is 220gms/day.
- 91% of venison weaners have been killed to date with only 54 to kill in Feb.
- The weaner cattle have been doing above expectations with 80% of the steers gone by end of Jan to Five Star. Growth rates for the steers have been recorded at:

Year	Stock Class	Period	LWG/day
2009	Five Star Steers	Sep-Nov	1.8kg/day
		Dec-Jan	2.0kg/day

- In previous years these weaners have had to be sold in September with tight feed conditions. With more winter feed crops, weaner deer kill profile coming forward and hill block development Whiterock have more control over their spring feed position. Whiterock want to continue to be in a position to finish the bulk of the progeny to avoid the roller coaster swings of the store market....but this is dependant on have security of contracts for finished animals.
- The cows and calves have been pulled down to the paddocks to help control pasture quality.

## WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010

### WHITEROCK STATION FOCUS FARM FIELD DAY from 12.30pm SHARP *BYO lunch prior to day*

- 12.30pm Carbon & Farming – What is the State of Play?**  
- Carbon Footprint on Whiterock  
- Clayton Wallwork (Manager, Carbon Farming Group)
- 1.00pm Property Tour**  
Late Summer Hind Management  
Practical Environmental Management on Deer Farms  
- Otago Regional Council & ECAN (Nicola McGrouther & Juliet Earl-Goulet)
- 3.00pm Afternoon Tea**
- 3.30pm Woolshed Presentation:**  
Financial Budget Update (Ross & Sally Stevens & Nicky Hyslop)  
Market Update (Murray Behrent, Alliance Group Ltd)
- 4.30pm Finish** Refreshments kindly provided by South Canterbury Toyota

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